

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY	East Germany	REPORT	
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1. In an attempt to solve the bottleneck in special coke for smelting purposes which is seriously holding up steel production in East Germany, the East German branch of the former Deutsche Ofenbaugesellschaft has constructed a plant for the production of smelting coke in Lauchhammer (Niederlausitz) consisting of 24 batteries, each battery containing four furnaces, each with six chambers.
2. This plant, of which approximately 19 batteries were in operation at the end of November 1952, is engaged in the production of smelting coke from soft coal by a new process invented by a certain Professor Rammler. The final form of the smelting coke produced by this process is a specially compressed briquette in the manufacture of which no hard coal is used. It is assumed that when all 24 batteries are brought into action, this plant will have a daily production figure of 3,000 to 4,000 tons of smelting coke.
3. While this smelting coke is destined for consumption by Eisenhuetten Kombinat Ost, Fuerstenberg/Oder, experiments to date with the coke already produced in this manner have shown that the process is not yet perfect and that the smelting coke in question is still below the standard required by the steel industry. Such coke as has already been produced and rejected by the EKO Fuerstenberg, has been diverted to the East German railroads and is being used in East German locomotives as a superior substitute for brown coal.

25 YEAR RE-REVIEW

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